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## FRANK EDWARD WATSON, 1877-1947

Frank Edward Watson was born at New York City, New York, on May 11, 1877, and died at Flushing, Long Island, New York, on November 6, 1947.

He was a son of Edward Watson and Mary Frost Watson, both of New York City. There were at least two brothers, Edward and Walter, and one sister, Myra, but whether they survived him is not known.

Frank's elementary education was undoubtedly in the public schools, and completed at Cooper Union, New York City, from which he graduated in 1900 with the degree B.Sc. For a number of years thereafter he was in the employ of the Otis Elevator Company as a draftsman, a work for which he had great talent.

His interest in lepidopterology demonstrated itself very early in life, and at the first opportunity he applied for a position with the American Museum of Natural History, where on September 12, 1914, he was appointed an Assistant in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology. In 1921 his title was changed to Assistant in Lepidoptera in the Department of Entomology when Entomology was set up as a separate unit, and again in 1929 his title was changed to Staff Assistant in Lepidoptera, which he held until his resignation on November 1, 1939.

During his long association with the American Museum of Natural History, Frank Watson made a number of collecting trips for that institution, in addition to those in the neighborhood of New York City. In 1914 he was in Puerto Rico (Field Nos. 3551 to 3605), and Florida (Field Nos. 3600 to 3647), in 1915 in Santo Domingo (Field Nos. 3648 to 3699 and 3765 to 3799), in 1916 in the southeastern United States, especially Georgia and Alabama (Field Nos. 4301 to 4332), in 1919-1920 in Jamaica,

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West Indies (Field Nos. 4413 to 4524), and in 1921–1922 in Haiti (Field Nos. 4606 to 4662), during all of which trips he collected numerous insects of all orders. Unfortunately not much was published by him concerning these trips, but the information he gathered has been used by other authors.

While his primary interest when we met in 1931 was Lepidoptera, Frank had a keen interest in and knowledge of birds. When he came to visit me he would arise early in the morning and sit on the rear terrace to listen to the birds, all of which he recognized by their songs. One of his discoveries at my home in Mendham, New Jersey, was Henslow's sparrow, a bird seldom seen, which appeared to be at home in a field in back of my house. Toward the end of Frank's life, birds seemed to have interested him more than insects, and eventually superseded the latter so as to result in the complete neglect of his butterfly collection, which became the prey of dermestids and was of slight value when acquired by the author. It was most regrettable, as many of Frank's records for the vicinity of Paterson, New Jersey, Van Cortlandt Park and New York City, New York, will never be repeated.

While any day spent collecting with Frank was interesting because of his knowledge of good localities and the flora and Lepidoptera fauna thereof, one day stands out vividly in my memory. On July 17, 1932 we had been collecting in Sussex County, New Jersey, and were cruising southward between Newton and Springdale on U. S. Route 206 (New Jersey Route 31), when suddenly Frank remarked that a place on the right-hand side of the road appeared interesting, so we stopped the car to investigate. What we saw was a long, narrow field bounded on one side by a limestone ridge covered by an open woods. As we walked in the field, Frank being on my right towards the woods, I saw him net something, bottle it, and throw his cap up in the air, at the same time letting out a loud whoop. Hurrying to his side to inquire the cause of his excitement, he said, "*Calephelis borealis*," and so it was. Up to that moment this rare Riodinidae had not been taken in New Jersey, although its type locality was only some miles northward near Newburgh, New York.

Placing a hat on the ground to mark the spot of capture, we began circling, on the theory that where there was one there must

be two. So there were, however not in the field but in the woods, which, every time we entered as a result of our widening circle, produced the insect. My notes show that we took twelve specimens in short order. It was several years later before the author was able to see a female oviposit and do the life history, which was published in the *Canadian Entomologist* for August of 1936.

Probably a day that must have stood out in Frank's memory was May 5, 1907, when with John H. Cook at Lakewood, New Jersey, they collected every *Incisalia* at that time recorded from the northeastern United States, Frank's contribution being the only specimen of *I. henrici henrici* ever taken that far south in New Jersey, and both catching a number of *I. polios*, then unnamed. That was indeed a banner day.

For many years it was Frank's habit to keep a loose-leaf journal in which he made daily entries of the weather, and during the spring, summer, and fall, of collecting records. When this practice commenced and ended is not known, but at the time his collection was acquired, some of these journals were received also, and covered the years 1904 in part, 1906–1910, 1911 in part, 1912–1913, 1915, and 1923–1925. Most of these books are indexed, and all in all it is a very business-like affair. What became of the missing volumes is unknown.

With meticulous care Frank entered in these journals his field experiences, describing in detail with whom he collected, where he went, how much the carfare cost, and what was collected. Sometimes these records were supplemented by those of friends in their own handwriting, and incorporated in that manner in the journals. In many instances Frank was particular to draw maps of his collecting localities. Of these places there are maps of the following New York spots: Alpine, Pine Island, Southfield-Tuxedo, and Van Cortlandt Park, and in New Jersey of Andover, Atlantic Highlands, Boonton, Greenwood Lake, Hammondsville, Jamesburg, Lakehurst, Lakewood, Newark-Elizabeth Port, New Brunswick, Overpeck Creek and Marsh, Schooley's Mountain, and South Orange. In many of these localities he gave fanciful names to sublocalities, as for instance, "The Garden of the Hesperids," "Incisalia Way," etc., etc.

We learn also from these journals the names of lepidopterists of that period, which otherwise would be lost forever, such as, L. V. Coleman, J. Bennett Hill, and John Bull.

As Frank grew older he became a person of many peculiarities, and not of a very smooth disposition. Quite often he would take offense at something or other, and one was at a loss to know what it was all about. Usually he was very reserved, and seldom spoke of his life, family, or previous occupation. Invariably he wore a cap, often a faded jacket and plus fours. In a restaurant there was frequently a big argument about serving the meat course without gravy or sauce. Sometimes it was sent back to correct something against which he had a strong prejudice. Frank was not a good mixer or overly friendly with most people, but with young people he was a real "scout leader," and would spend time without end answering questions and furnishing information. In this way he was largely responsible for the development of several of our outstanding entomologists who, in their youth, came under Frank's influence. Among these are F. Martin Brown and Alexander Barrett Klots.

Watson was a life and honorary member of the New York Entomological Society, as well as a member of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, from which he resigned in 1916.

While connected with the Museum, Frank maintained an apartment on the upper west side of New York City. Upon his retirement in 1940 he lived with friends in Astoria, and during his last days resided at Flushing, New York.

It has not been possible to supply a photograph of Frank Watson, but one will be found in the *Entomological News* for March of 1930.

The author is indebted to Mr. John H. Cook of Albany, New York, one of Watson's lifelong friends, for much information concerning him; my colleagues Mr. Ernest L. Bell, Sr., of Flushing, New York, and Prof. Alexander Barrett Klots of Pelham, New York, both with the Department of Insects and Spiders of the American Museum of Natural History, and who knew Watson for many years; Mr. John T. Nichols, Curator Emeritus of Fishes, Department of Fishes and Aquatic Biology of the American Museum of Natural History for having supplied some details concerning Watson's interest in birds; Mrs. Charlotte Stove of the Office Service Division of the American Museum of Natural History for research work and information concerning Watson's collecting expeditions, and for having searched the Museum files and furnished considerable biographical data.

## I. Papers by Frank Edward Watson

1913. Four new additions to our local list of Rhopalocera. Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc. **8**: 45-46.
1915. Some miscellaneous local records of Lepidoptera. Jour. New York Ent. Soc. **23**: 70-71.
1916. Local records of Lepidoptera. *Ibid.* **24**: 155.
1917. *Acronycta funeralis* Grote & Robinson. *Ibid.* **25**: 196.
1917. Writing of W[illiam] D[unham] Kearfott (compiler). *Ibid.* **25**: 238-239.
1918. A large number of species of butterflies observed in one day's collecting. *Ibid.* **26**: 3-7.
1918. Butterfly collecting for the season of 1918. *Ibid.* **26**: 228.
1919. Miscellaneous collecting notes for 1919. *Ibid.* **27**: 342-343.
1920. Miscellaneous notes and records of local Lepidoptera, with the description of a new form. *Ibid.* **28**: 227-235.
1921. Miscellaneous notes and records of local Lepidoptera, and description of two new aberrations. *Ibid.* **29**: 168-173.
1922. Miscellaneous notes and records of local Lepidoptera, and description of two new aberrations. *Ibid.* **30**: 131-135.
1929. *Eurymus eurhytheme f. amphidusa f. ♀ pallida* Cockerell. *Ibid.* **37**: 48.
1932. Miscellaneous note. *Ibid.* **40**: 98.
1932. [Book notice.] The butterfly book, new and thoroughly revised edition. A popular and scientific manual, describing and depicting all the butterflies of the United States and Canada. By W. J. Holland. *Ibid.* **40**: 100-102.
1932. Doctor Ottolengui's collection of Phytometrinae. *Ibid.* **40**: 438.
1937. New Hesperiidæ from the Antilles (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 906. 10 pp.
1938. A new *Eurema* from Puerto Rico (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *Ibid.* no. 971. 2 pp.

II. Paper by Frank Edward Watson  
and L[?] V[?] Coleman

1912. *Iphiclides ajax* and *Eurymus interior* [Lepid.] from the summit of Mt. Marcy, N. Y. Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc. **8**: 4-6.

III. Paper by Frank Edward Watson  
and William Phillips Comstock

1920. Notes on American Lepidoptera with descriptions of new varieties. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. **42**: 447-457.

IV. Papers by John Hawley Cook  
and Frank Edward Watson

1907. A new butterfly of the genus *Incisalia*. Canadian Ent. **39**: 202-204.

1908. Practical and popular Entomology.—No. 25. Oviposition of *Epidemia epixanthe*. *Ibid.* 40: 85–88.
1909. A variety of *Basilarchia archippus*. *Ibid.* 41: 77, pl. 5.
1909. *Incisalia* (Lepidoptera) from Texas. *Ibid.* 41: 181–182.

V. Papers by Frank Edward Watson  
and Frank Eugene Lutz

1926. Our common butterflies. *Nat. Hist.* 26: 165–183, 17 pls. (2 colored), 1 fig., table.
1930. Our common butterflies. *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Guide Leaflet no. 38*, sixth and revised edition: 1–21, 17 pls. (2 colored), 1 fig., table.—  
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